Vol. V. Numb. 38.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Observations on the Review. *Dethroning the* French *King the best way to secure a lasting Peace. Provision ought to be made for our Brave Officers and Soldiers. Of the Arbitrary Proceedings of the Commissioners of the* Excise. *The* Country-man *turn'd* Observator *on the* Rehearsal.

From Wednesday July the 24th, to Saturday July the 27th, 1706.

Country-m. MAster *Observator*, here's more Work for you; Mr. *Review* stands firm to the Point, we cannot take any part of our Neighbours Country into Possession, and that *England* has Ways and Means sufficient to Reward those that venture their Lives in her Service.

Obs. I am afraid Mr. *Review* is mistaken: *England* has not Ways and Means to Reward those that have ventur'd their Lives in the Service; and if there be the *Power*, pray where is the *Will*, or where is it likely to be? Will you give 'em Places in the *Customs?* No, that's wonderfully repleniſh'd with *Footmen*, whilst Men of *Merit*, of *Real Worth*, that have ventur'd their Lives and spent their Estates in the Defence of the *Realm* and the *Liberties* of *England* are Starving, and can hardly crawl about the Streets.

Will you prefer them in the *Excise?* No, have a care of that; the Gentlemen that preside there are too much enclin'd to *Arbitrary Power* to prefer those that have ventur'd their Lives in Dethroning of *Tyranny*. Honest *Country man*, here's a Book call'd *Remarks on the horrible Oppressions, Insolencies, and Unjustifiable Partialities of the Commissioners of the* Excise, *with some Historical Collections of Matter of Fact*, wherein are such plain Proofs of *Arbitrary Power* laid down, that our Honest Ancestors would have gone near to ha' Hang'd such a parcel of *Miscreants*; and I hope our good Parliament, to whom this Book is Dedicated, will do the Nation Justice in this Point, and whilst the Queens Arms are Victorious Abroad, will not suffer the People of *England* to be Enslav'd at Home by any that bear Authority under Her Majesty.

It was the Custom and Practice of the Ancient *Romans* to admit none into Secular Offices; nay, not so much as to make them Freemen of any of their Cities or Towns till such time as they had served a certain Term, as I remember, of 12 Years in the War. The *Athenians*, a Wise and Provident People, always followed this Practice, and their Laws Naturalized all the Children of those that dy'd in the Wars, and made 'em the Children of the State: If it ben't so in *England*, it ought to be so; we can never do too much for those that venture Life and Limb for the Safety of our Country; they all Merit some Reward, but how they'll get it I can't tell.

A Peace will Disband all our Warriours; we can't maintain 'em in *England*; we have no need of 'em here at any time, and our *Constitution* will not admit of a *Standing Army* which must be a *Standing Grievance*. I must confess the Commissioners of the *Excise* may want an Armed Force to justifie their Illegal Practices, for nothing else can do it; but no Free People can need Soldiers at Home, the Native Strength of the Kingdom, as it is the Greater, so it is the Natural and Best Defence.

I am as much for *Peace* as any Honest Man ought to be, tho' I don't determine my Judgment by *Modern Authorities*, especially by *Addresses*, on which no Wise Man would depend; those that ring Chimes, pull the Ropes according to the Order of the Director of the Bell-frey. I found all my Notions of things on the true *English* Interest, without any respect to the Advantage of particular Persons, and therefore must still adhear to my Opinion, That a *Peace* is better procured by Deposing the *French* King, Setting up the Right Heir, or dividing his Kingdom amongst the Soldiery, by whose Courage and Conduct he has been Dethron'd, than by any other means whatsoever.

Country m. So it be done, I don't care how it is done. Let Queen *Ann* bring him to the Condition that he was in when Queen *Elizabeth* Rul'd, and I think he'll be sufficiently *Muzzl'd*, that is, let him not be able to fit out a Ship, or raise a Regiment without Hers and the *Confederates* leave, and then we are safe enough.

Now, Master, if you please, I'll turn *Observator* upon the *Rehearsal*, according to my Promise.

The *Rehearser* Impudently affirms, That in some Times and Places the Private Soldiers, as well as Officers, have been obliged to receive the Holy Sacrament according to the Church of *England*. He says, *He is very well assured it was so in* Ireland, *when the late Duke of* Ormond *was Chief Governour*.

Now, Master, what is all this to the Purpose? He has possitively affirmed, That all the Soldiers who fought the Battles of *Hockstedt* and *Ramelly*, had taken the Sacrament according to the Order of the Church of *England*, and Bullies the *Dissenters* with it, and threatens them how they shall be used by this *Church Army* after the War is ended. And for Proof of what he has asserted, he tells you, *The Duke of* Ormond *did so in* Ireland: So that his Argument runs thus, The Duke of *Ormond* did oblige the Private Soldiers in *Ireland* to take the Sacrament. *Tarbox* the Duke of *Marlborough* does so in *England*. E'nt this a meer Num of a *Losopher?*

Well, but suppose the Duke of *Ormond* did so in *Ireland*, had he any Law for so doing? That's the Question, and that he can't Answer. When *Saucy Jack* the Brewer Govern'd the *Victualling-Office* he, too, oblig'd the Artificers and Labourers to take the *Sacrament*, but no Law obliged them thereto. If the Actions of our Officers may pass for Law it has often so happen'd in *England* that we might be justly call'd *The most Miserable People in the Universe*.

Now

Now mark our *Logician* again, *I never enquir'd whether it was not so in* England. Then, Mr. *Rehearsal* you are a Knave to tell us Positively it is so, *That they have all taken the Sacrament according to the Order of the Church of* England, and so Bully People upon it; and then tell us, *That you never enquired whether it was so or no.*

And still he tells you that his Argument holds good: Says he, *In all our Armies, both by Sea and Land, the Private Soldiers are oblig'd to attend the* Common-Prayer, *read by the Chaplains of every Ship and Regiment, and who are Absent, without just Cause, are Punish'd by their Officers.* Mark the Consequence and Conclusion from the Premises: *Tarbox*, Every Private Soldier that Fought the Battles of *Hogstedt* and *Ramelly* had before taken the Sacrament according to the Order of the Church of *England*. We must, Master, find some way or other to make the *Rehearser* produce these Orders of the Church of *England*, for I find 'em contrary to the Law of *England*.

I farther observe in this Paragraph, *First*, That the *Common-Prayer* is the *Church* of *England*. *Secondly*, That the *Officers* of the *Army* and *Navy* do oblige their *Soldiers* to do what the Law does not require. And *Thirdly*, That the *Officers* of the *Army* and *Navy* do Punish the Nations Servants contrary to Law. I hope some of the *Officers* of the *Navy* or *Army* will take *Lesley* by the Nose for this.

But now, Master, he comes to Law, and says, *That by the Statute of* 13. *and* 14. Char. 2. chap. 3. 5, 19. *That the Soldiers as well as Officers, are obliged to take the Oaths of* Allegiance *and* Supremacy, *and likewise, That Oath, That it is not Lawful on any Pretence whatsoever to take up Arms against the King.* The Conclusions from these Premises too are, That every Private Soldier that Fought at the Battles of *Hogstedt* and *Ramelly* had before taken the Sacrament according to the Order of the Church of *England*. What fine Reasons are these? Here are Conclusions with a Witness! What fine Nums do our *Varsities* Breed? What Wise Men would send their Children to be Educated by such Confounded Sophisters? Well, Master, I'll never fear 'em, for the meanest *Countryman* is able to confute the Point with 'em.

Now, Master, these Statutes he has quoted are not Orders of the Church of *England*, as he impudently asserts; nor are those Statutes now in Force, being Repeal'd in the first Year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*; and besides, here *is* nothing of the Sacrament in either of these Statutes. Is not this a false *Teague*, thus to reflect on the Duke of *Marlborough*, as if he had Acted contrary to Law by imposing that on the Soldiers which the Law does not impose, and reflecting on the Wisdom of the *English* Nation, in putting hardships on the Subject under an Impossibility.

For, Master, suppose an Officer in the Army has the Queens Commission, either by Sea or Land, his *Ship* Rides at *Spit-head*, or his *Company* is in *Flanders*, he must immediately go to his *Ship*, which, perhaps, is Ordered to the *East* or *West-Indies*, or to the Campaign in *Flanders*, the Act of Parliament requires him to take the Sacrament, and to appear Personally in *Westminster-Hall* with Vouchers to have it Recorded. Now this is impossible to be done in times of War: Indeed, for Soldiers that are kept in *England* for no other Purpose than to keep the *Rats* and *Weesils* out of our Garrisons and Barrachs when there is no occasion of Fighting, as in the Luxurious Reign of King *Charles* the Second; but the Case is now otherwise, and should it be enjoyn'd now as then, I don't know where we could raise an Army.

But now, Master, I come to consider the *Rehearsers* Conclusion from what he has laid down, and which, more than once, he has asserted very Falsely, Maliciously and Impudently, *viz. That all our great Victories have been gain'd by* Church-Men, Church-Generals, Church-Officers, *and* Church-Soldiers, *and not by* Whigs *or* Dissenters.

Now, Master, this is an impudent Falsehood, by *Church-men* he means *High-Church-Men* of his own Set, *i. e. Non-jurors*, and not one of 'em is an Officer in the Army: This is a Reflectection on the Duke of *Marlborough*, and those that serve under him in the Army.

But, Master, this is a greater Reflection on the Allies; if they have any Envoys here I hope it will be taken Notice of. Did none but such as have taken the Sacrament according to the Order of the Church of *England*, Fight the Battail at *Hogstedt* and *Ramelly*? Was there never a *Whig* or *Dissenter* in those Engagements? *Lesley* told us, but t'other day, *That Prince* Eugene *was a* Papist *and* Dissenter. *Tarbox* he did not take the Sacrament according to the Order of the Church of *England*. My Lord *Averquerque* was at the Battle of *Ramelly*, did his Lordship, and all the *Dutch* and *Foreigners* that fought under him, take the Sacrament according to the Order of the Church of *England*? Were they all *High-Churchmen* that Took *Ostend*, and several other Important Places in the *Spanish Netherlands*? I would fain see this Commission that the *Rehearser* has got for Belying every Body, both Natives and Foreigners.

Obs. Country-man, I think thou hast paid him home; let him get off as well as he can.

Country-m. Master, and I will maul him to the end of the Chapter; I'll dress his *Sandwich-Breeches* for him to some Tune. Come, Master, let us depart with a Good Health to Monsieur *Overkirk*.

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London, Printed for the Author, *John Tutchin*. 1706.